

WARRICK COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

RESOLUTION 2000- 2

**A RESOLUTION REGARDING
THE COAL ACT**

WHEREAS, Warrick is a coal-producing and coal-consuming county that has benefitted tremendously from the hard, dangerous work of retired coal miners; and

WHEREAS, the United States government entered into a contract with the coal miners in 1946 that created the United Mine Workers of American Health and Retirement Funds; and

WHEREAS, this contract was signed in the White House in a ceremony with President Harry Truman; and

WHEREAS, a federal commission established by U.S. Secretary of Labor Elizabeth Dole concluded in 1990:

“Retired coal miners have legitimate expectations of health care benefits for life; that was the promise they received during their working lives and that is how they planned their retirement years. The commitment should be honored.”; and

WHEREAS, this promise became law in 1992 when Congress passed, and President George Bush signed, the Coal Industry Retiree Health Benefit Act (the Coal Act); and

WHEREAS, the Coal Act reiterated the promise of lifetime health benefits for retired coal miners and their dependents; and

WHEREAS, Congress intended the Coal Act to:

“(1) remedy problems with the provision and funding of health care benefits with respect to the beneficiaries of multi-employer benefit plans that provide health care benefits to retirees in the coal industry;

- (2) allow for sufficient operating assets for such plans; and
- (3) provide for the continuation of a privately financed self-sufficient program for the delivery of health care benefits to the beneficiaries of such plans.”; and

WHEREAS, certain court decisions have eroded the financial structure that Congress put in place under the Coal Act; and

WHEREAS, these court decisions have placed the continued provision of health benefits to retired coal miners in jeopardy.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

Section 1. That the County Commission of Warrick County in the State of Indiana urges the Congress and the Executive Branch of the United States work together to reform the financial structure of the Coal Act to ensure that retired coal miners continue to receive the health care benefits they were promised and so rightly deserve; and

Section 2. That a copy of this resolution be sent to the Governor of the State of Indiana, the President of the United States and to each member of the Congressional delegation representing the people of the State of Indiana;

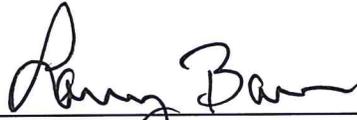
Section 3. This Resolution shall take effect and be in force from the earliest period allowed by law.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 28th day of February, 2000.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF
WARRICK COUNTY, INDIANA



W. David Rector, President



Larry Barr, Commissioner



Jack Pike, Commissioner

ATTEST:



Richard Kixmiller, Auditor